



New Brunswick Chiropractors' Association

Code of Ethics

History

Approved by the Board: August 16, 2010
Effective: September 1, 2010

Definition and Purpose

This Code of Ethics (the Code) is a set of principles of professional conduct, which guides all chiropractors and establishes the expectations for chiropractors in fulfilling their ethical duties to patients, to the public, the profession and to society as a whole. The Code affirms and clarifies principles that are definitive to professional and ethical chiropractic care.

The Code identifies the basic moral and ethical commitments of the chiropractic profession and will serve as a source for education and reflection. The Code provides direction for ethical practice; and in so doing, it also serves as a basis for self-evaluation. The Code of Ethics provides public identification of the profession's ethical expectations of its members. Therefore, the Code is educational. The Code of Ethics guides behaviour and expresses to the larger community the values and ideals that are espoused by the chiropractic profession by reason of public trust and commitment to this trust. The Code of Ethics is an important part of the way in which the NBCA fulfills its obligation to promote and protect the public interest.

The Code is binding on all members and violations may result in disciplinary action. The Code of Ethics, by its very nature cannot be a complete articulation of all ethical obligations. In

resolving ethical issues, chiropractors shall consider ethical principles, the patient's needs and interests, and all applicable laws. The Code of Ethics that follows sets forth the ethical duties that along with the Standards of Practice of the NBCA, are binding on regulated members of the New Brunswick Chiropractors' Association. Any member of the public who believes that a member chiropractor has acted unethically or in an unskilled manner may bring the matter to the attention of the Complaints Committee Chair, to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Association's Act and By-laws.

Principles

The Code of Ethics contains the guidelines for, and expresses the values shared by, registered members of the chiropractic profession of New Brunswick. The Principles of Ethics are the goals to which every member of the profession must aspire. There are two fundamental sets of principals that form the foundation of the New Brunswick Chiropractors' Association (NBCA) Code of Ethics. These are: Patient Rights and Patient Responsibilities.

Patient Rights

The Rights of a Patient are based on seven principles:

- A. Respect and Non-Discrimination
- B. Information & Communication: Promoting clear communication of accurate information
- C. Integrity and Accountability: Promoting a doctor-patient relationship built on trust
- D. Participation: Informed decision making and informed choices
- E. Safe and Competent Care
- F. Privacy: Ensuring personal information is secure
- G. Redress: Commenting on care and having concerns addressed

A. Respect and Non-discrimination

As a patient you have the right to expect...

- I. To be treated in a considerate, compassionate and respectful manner.
- II. To receive chiropractic care without discrimination of age, gender, marital status, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.
- III. That any request you make to have another individual present during your examination and /or treatment will be respected.

B. Information and Communication

As a patient you are entitled to...

- I. Receive clear and accurate communication about your health issues, your care and treatment options throughout the duration of your care.

- II. Receive information that is truthful and verifiable.
- III. Be provided with a diagnosis and clear markers for evaluation of your progress and improvement.

C. Integrity and Accountability

As a patient you have the right to expect that...

- I. The recommended diagnostic, treatment and therapeutic procedures are necessary.
- II. Continuation of your treatment will be based on periodic re-evaluations to monitor your progress and improvement.
- III. Your care will not be discontinued without sufficient notice that includes information pertaining to the stewardship of your health records.

D. Participation in Decision Making and Informed Choice

As a patient you have the right to expect that...

- I. You will participate in your treatment decisions with full knowledge of the treatment options, potential benefits, known risks, advantages and disadvantages of treatment as well as the costs.
- II. You will make the final decision as to the type of treatment, choice of provider and to accept or refuse such treatment.
- III. You may withdraw consent or refuse further treatment, even if consent has previously been given.
- IV. You may request a second opinion from another chiropractor or healthcare provider.
- V. Your chiropractor will collaborate with other health care practitioners, when necessary, so that you shall have the benefit of coordinated team care.
- VI. The rights and interests of patients who have limited or impaired decision-making capacity are safeguarded.

E. Safe and Competent Care

As a patient you have the right to expect ...

- I. That chiropractic services will be provided with skill and competence in a safe environment.
- II. Your chiropractor recognizes his or her limitations, and practices only within the restrictions of his/her professional competence.
- III. Your chiropractor is providing your care without impairment by controlled substances, alcohol or chemical agents.

F. Privacy

As a patient you have the right to expect...

- I. The collection, use, disclosure and storage of your personal health and other information will be undertaken in accordance with relevant privacy legislation and will remain confidential, unless legislation requires disclosure or you direct otherwise pursuant to informed and formal, written consent, which may not be implied or imputed.
- II. That you may access your patient file in accordance with relevant privacy legislation.

G. Redress

As a patient you are entitled to...

- I. Have any concerns or complaints you have made regarding your care or an office policy dealt with by your chiropractor.
- II. Have your health records corrected by your chiropractor if they are shown to be incorrect.

II. Patient Responsibilities

The responsibilities of a patient are based on four principles:

- A. Communication
- B. Compliance with Care
- C. Courtesy and Respect
- D. Accountability

A. Communication

As a patient, you are expected to...

- I. Disclose all relevant information to your chiropractor and answer all questions truthfully so that he/she is able to make the best diagnosis and assessment.
- II. Give an accurate, complete medical history and report changes in your health to your chiropractor.
- III. Disclose whether you have a contagious disease that may require special management.
- IV. Ask questions prior to making an informed decision and consenting to care if the explanation of your condition, treatment or progress is not clear.

B. Compliance with Care

As a patient, you are expected to...

- I. Follow the chiropractic treatment plan created for you to the best of your ability.

- II. If you believe you cannot follow through with the treatment plan, you will discuss the situation with your doctor.

C. Courtesy and Respect

As a patient, you are expected to...

- I. Be courteous and respectful to other patients, staff and members of the chiropractic health care team.
- II. Respect the property and policies of the clinic. Recognize that the diagnostic, treatment and therapeutic procedures your chiropractor has recommended are warranted.

D. Accountability

As a patient, you are expected to...

- I. Cancel any appointments you are unable to attend.
- II. Be responsible for all fees incurred.